



# THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture  
Seminole County Extension  
407-665-5550



## JULY -AUGUST- SEPTEMBER

### LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Mow at 3-4 inches on standard varieties or 2 ½ inches on semi-dwarf varieties of St. Augustine grass. Never remove more than 1/3 of the size of the plant. Do not mow when soil is wet, it will cause injuries to the grass.
- **Irrigation:** Watering should complement rainfall to prevent drought stress. Apply ¾ - 1 inch of water twice a week if no rainfall occurs. Grass should receive 1 ½ - 2 inches water per week. Watering should be done only in the morning to avoid prolonged periods of wetness at night on the grass leaves.
- **Weed Control:** The best method to control weeds is through a healthy, vigorous turf. Do not apply herbicides unless grass and weeds are actively growing, not under water stress, and when temperatures are above 85 degrees F, because it can result in turf injury.
- **Fertilization:** For highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet early in July (6.5 pounds of a fertilizer with 15% nitrogen or 10 pounds of a fertilizer containing 10% nitrogen). For low and highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet in September. Higher rates of nitrogen encourage chinch bugs or fungal disease development. Fertilizer should contain 50% of the nitrogen in the slow release form.
- **Disease Control:** Brown areas could be caused by fungi. If damage by fungi is diagnosed, use a systemic fungicide at least two times, two weeks apart for more effective control.

### SUMMER 2010

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### HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

**Soil Testing** Tests performed Mon& Fri.  
Fee \$2.00 per sample  
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

**Plant Clinic** Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Bring in a sample

**"Ask A Master Gardener"** Call 407-665-5550  
**Phone Service** Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events  
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
IFAS ~ EXTENSION  
<http://solutionforyourlife.com>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Pest Control:** Scout for insects in yellowing areas, soapy water may help detect some types of insects, mainly chinch bugs. If pest insects are present, apply an insecticide formulated for lawn use.

## CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Recently transplanted trees should be fertilized only after new growth starts. For fruit bearing trees, the 3<sup>rd</sup> application of fertilizer should be in August. Spread the fertilizer over the area from about 2 ft. from the trunk to 3 feet past the drip line. Apply a citrus special fertilizer  $\frac{1}{4}$  the total amount recommended per year (Total pounds of fertilizer per year is equal to total inches of tree trunk circumference).
- **Irrigation:** Citrus require about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch of water twice a week. If rains do not supply at least that amount of water, supplemental irrigation is necessary to supply the water needs of the tree.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches.

## PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized four times per year. In deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet of a palm special fertilizer to supply adequate amounts of magnesium and manganese so important for palm growth.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut about 15 in. away from the trunk under the leaf petiole and then make the next cut about 18 in. away from the trunk on the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

## Summer Vegetables & Herbs

**VEGETABLES** – Boniato, Calabaza, Cassava, Cherry tomato, Okra, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Garden beans.

**HERBS** - Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Ginger, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, and Thyme.

**BULBS** - African iris, Day lily, Gladiolus, Gloriosa lily, Rain lily and Society garlic.

**FLOWERS** –Ageratum, Begonia, Blue daze, Cat's whiskers, Coleus, Ginger, Impatiens, Marigold, Moon flower, Pentas, Periwinkle, Moss flower, Salvia and Zinnia.



## FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn)

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. <b>Water Efficiently</b> | 7. Recycle                       |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately  | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff      |
| 4. Mulch                    | 9. Protect the Waterfront        |
| 5. Attract Wildlife         |                                  |

**Did you know your lawn does not need more than ½" to ¾" of water per watering. Given that you may water up to two times per week that adds up to 1"-1.5 " of water a week. If we get an abundance of rainfall, irrigation watering many not even be necessary. Think about it...**

An irrigation system can often be the key to a healthy, attractive lawn. However, the improper operation of automatic irrigation systems can waste water, fertilizer and cause disease. Your automatic system, typically composed of a controller and an irrigation shut-off device (a rain sensor or a soil-moisture sensor), should not be operated on a fixed schedule. You should turn the irrigation controller to the "off" setting and water only as needed.

Watering as needed means waiting to water until 30 to 50 percent of your lawn shows at least one of the [three wilt signs](#).

- Leaf blades are folding in half lengthwise to conserve water.
- The grass has taken on a blue-gray tint.
- Footprints or tire tracks remain visible on the grass long after being made.

The key to watering as needed is your irrigation controller. Your controller is the "brain" of your irrigation system, but it only does what *you* tell it. Rather than running your system on a set schedule, regardless of rainfall, take control of your system and irrigate only as needed to conserve water and keep your lawn healthy.

### [How Your Controller Works](#)

Your controller—the "brain" of your irrigation system—hangs on the garage or utility room wall and tells your system when to come on and how long to run. Newer controllers are usually easy to set. They typically come with simple instructions on an attached label. Look for details on your model and read all the instructions carefully.

After setting the current day and time, there are really only three things the controller needs to be told:

- What day(s) to water
- What time to begin
- How long each irrigation zone should be watered
- 

For more Florida-Friendly landscape information: 407 665-5575 or [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov).





## "Ask A Master Gardener"

We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
407-665-5550

A word about "organic" pesticides Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as "organic" (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually breaks down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

### Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water  
2 tbsp dish soap  
(without degreasers)  
2 tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

### Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water  
4 teaspoons of baking soda  
1 oz. horticulture oil  
(1 1/2 T)

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

*\*test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant.*

Q. What do the label colors mean on pesticide containers?

A. The colors are part of the labeling requirements that identify the toxicity categories of pesticides. They are listed below in the order from most toxic to least toxic (to humans and animals). Always start with the least toxic pesticide available to treat problems in the garden and landscape.

**Red: DANGER I \***

**\* SKULL & CROSSBONES NEAR WORD POISON**

**Yellow: WARNING II**

**Blue: CAUTION III**

**Green: CAUTION IV**

Q. What are some important vegetable planting dates in Central Florida?

A. Some Central Florida vegetable gardeners find it helpful to categorize their crops into Cool, Warm and Hot seasons. Below are dates frequently used for General planting guidelines. Refer to *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide SP 103* for a detailed planting guide for a wide variety of vegetables.

August 15	Warm season plants (tomatoes, etc.)
October 1	Cool season plants (broccoli, etc.)
March 1	Warm season plants (tomatoes, etc.)
May 1	Hot season plants (okra, peas)

Q. When is the next Seminole County Extension Service vegetable gardening class scheduled?

A. The next offering of *Planning Your First Florida Vegetable Garden* will be Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 From 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the Extension Service Auditorium.

The Cooperative Extension System is a nationwide network. Each state has an office through its land-grant university. To find the network of local offices anywhere you roam, contact [www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension)





## The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

### Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32771

"Summer, after a hard winter and late spring has definitely arrived in the Extension Office Teaching Gardens, along with weeds. The Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) in the Partial Shade and Butterfly garden areas were once again hit hard twice this winter but after a severe prune, both are coming back nicely. Individual plant labels are now in place in all the garden areas. If you've not seen the gardens recently, stop by the Extension Office at your next convenience to speak with the Master Gardener on duty about plants there that may be appropriate for the sun, shade and soil conditions in your garden!"

**Coordinator: Jim Bourg, [jwbourg@gmail.com](mailto:jwbourg@gmail.com)**

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

### Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

While it is still hot in Florida, a evening walk in the Student Museum Gardens will provide you with a glimpse of what grandma use to plant in a Pioneer Garden and check out the new entries in the Butterfly Garden. Sponsored by SCPS Student Museum and Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

**Coordinator: Dave Grace, [dcgrace01@aol.com](mailto:dcgrace01@aol.com)**

### Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The extended cold winter weather brought some surprises as to which plants survived and which plants died, always a learning opportunity when gardening. In the Water-Wise and Florida-Friendly Garden, our surprise was the survival of the native perennial flower Rosinweed. It has thick prickly leaves, with tall 3 inch stalks of daisy-like flowers. A true keeper for any garden.

**Coordinators: Debbie Meinert, [dmeinert@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:dmeinert@seminolecountyfl.gov)  
and Gabrielle Milch, [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)**

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO  
Saturday, November 6, 2010 at Red Bug Lake Park  
10 am to 4 pm.

Visit the website at <http://seminolemastergardenershow.org> for Program information.

Applications for exhibit space and sponsorships are available at the website.

Email [expo@seminolemastergardenershow.org](mailto:expo@seminolemastergardenershow.org)



## Pest Alert: A NEW CITRUS DISEASE IN FLORIDA: CITRUS BLACK SPOT

A new disease of citrus was detected in the Immokalee area in March 8, 2010 affecting Valencia sweet oranges. This is the first report of this disease in America. The disease known as citrus black spot is caused by a fungus called *Guignardia citricarpa*. This is an economically important disease that causes early fruit drop and exterior damage of the fruits. The symptom of the disease is characterized by dark spots on the rind of the fruit where the spores from the fungus are produced. Leaf symptoms of the disease are relatively minor but infected leaves decaying on the ground serve as source of secondary infections that are very important for disease development. The fungus is known to infect only citrus especially late maturing oranges, lemons, mandarins and grapefruit being the most susceptible. Citrus black spot has been included in the list of threatening exotic citrus diseases because of its capacity to reduce yields of citrus trees.

**Control:** Applications of protectant and systemic fungicides can reduce fruit damage but may require as many as five applications of fungicides per year and should be complemented with sanitation practices such as removal of leaves, twigs, and fruits.







Seminole County Extension

Home Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd  
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,  
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —  
Your Community Resource For  
Gardening And Landscaping  
Information  
— — — — —

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/  
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension Services  
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly  
Newsletter

To receive by email  
[aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

**Newsletter  
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**Seminole County:  
USDA Hardiness  
Zone 9b  
Amer.Hort.Soc.  
Heat Zone 10**

**EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!**

July 10, 2010  
9:00am-12:00pm

Florida Natives  
Ed Yarborough Nature Center  
3485 N. County Rd. 426 Geneva  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!  
info [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

July 15, 2010  
6:00pm-7:30pm

Design a Florida Friendly Landscape  
245 N. Hunt Club Blvd. Longwood  
West Branch library  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!  
info [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

July 31 & August 1, 2010  
7:30am-6:00pm

Fla. Small Farms Conference  
Osceola Heritage Park Kissimmee  
Regis. Before July 12 \$110.00  
Mandy Stage 352-392-5930  
For more details  
<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>

August 7, 2010  
9:00am-12:00pm

Planning Your 1st Vegetable Garden  
Seminole County Extension  
250 W. County Rd.  
Registration 407-665-5550 FREE!!  
info [aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

August 14, 2010  
9:00am-Noon

Fertilize Appropriately  
Seminole County Extension  
250 W. County Rd.  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!  
info [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

August 21, 2010  
9:00am-12:00pm

How to Attract Wildlife  
Ed Yarborough Nature Center  
3485 N. County Rd. 426 Geneva  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!  
info [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

August 26, 2010  
6:30pm-7:30pm

Water Efficiently-Irrigation  
580 Greenway Blvd. Lake Mary  
Northwest Library  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!  
info [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Sept. 9, 2010  
6:00pm-7:30pm

Right Plant, Right Place  
Oviedo Library  
310 Division St. Oviedo  
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!

